Setting up REDFOR by the army

1521. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Army is setting up "REDFOR" which will think like the adversaries; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposed force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Headquarters Army Training Command (ARTRAC) was restructured in September 2001, with in-house readjustments, and a new branch "REDFOR" created. This branch is tasked to carry out detailed study of the organization, doctrine, tactics and behavioral pattern of our adversaries.

Hig powered transmission towers set up by Pakistan

†1522. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan's intelligence agency, ISI, has established high-power transmission towers made by a Chinese mobile company called alcatale in its border area of Shakargarh city adjoining with India to keep contact with its active terrorists in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government of India thereto and counter-action taken to proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Intelligence agencies do not have information to confirm it.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Purchase of defective digital cameras

1523. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have received any complaint regarding

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

purcase of 500 digital cameras which had been purchased at a cost higher than their actual price and most of these cameras were not found in working order;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been initiated in this matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) A pseudonymous complaint alleging irregularites in the procurement of Information Technology stores and 500 digital cameras by the Army Headquarters was received in the Ministry in July, 2002. As per extant instructions of the Central vigilance Commission, no action is required to be taken on such complaints. However, the Army Headquarters have ordered a court of inquiry to inquire into all the major IT procurements made for the Army, including ascertaining the facts of the complaint. Further course of action will depen upon the findings of the court of inquiry.

Recruitment of skilled manpower in IAF

1524. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Air Force is initiating the largest ever recruitment drive to overcome the shortage of skilled manpower;

(b) if so, whether such a drive will be limited to the Air Force or Army and Navy will also be launching such recruitment drive with a view to present a youthfull profile and fill existing vacancies; and

(c) whether such shortage of skilled manpower would result in compromising our combat capabilities to any extent?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. No such recruitment drive is planned. However, in order to attract the best talent, recruitment related publicity is a regular and ongoing features in IAF.

(b) Army also has not launched any such recruitment drive. However, a large number of recuritment rallies are conducted regularly throughout the year.